

FAQS FOR RETROACTIVE STOP LOSS SPECIAL PAY (RSLSP)

Q1. What is Retroactive Stop Loss Special Pay (SLSP)?

A1. Retroactive SLSP is a lump sum payment which will be paid to qualified service members that were affected by the stop loss program between September 11, 2001 and ending on September 30, 2008.

Q2. Who is responsible for Retroactive SLSP policy and administration in the Army?

A2. The Army G-1, Compensation and Entitlements is the executive agent responsible for collecting required documents from claimants and providing the necessary information to Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) for payment.

Q3. What is the biggest mistake that claimants make on their claim?

A3. There are several recurring errors that are worth noting:

- Soldiers forget that Unit stop loss does not mean all soldiers in the unit were “stop loss”; the period claimed must have a start date and end date based on the last contracted period.
- RC soldiers should not automatically claim their entire active duty time; RC soldiers must also build an accurate – contract based time line for their claim.

Q4. Who is eligible for the Retroactive SLSP?

A4. Service members, including members of the Reserve Components, former and retired members who, at any time between Sept. 11, 2001, and Sept. 30, 2008, served on active duty while their enlistment or period of obligated service was extended, or whose eligibility for retirement was suspended from one of the following:

- Contractual Expiration of Term of Service (ETS), Expiration of Active Service (EAS), or Reserve End of Current Contract (RECC); or
- An approved separation date based on an unqualified resignation request or Release From Active Duty (REFRAD) order; or
- An approved retirement based on length of service.

Service members who were discharged or released from the Armed Forces under other than honorable conditions are not permitted to receive Retroactive Stop Loss Special Pay.

Q5. How much is the payment?

A5. The amount of compensation shall be \$500 per month for each month or any portion of a month during the period specified above that the member was retained on active duty as a result of application of the Stop Loss Authority.

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Q6. Is there a limit to the number of months that can be claimed?

A6. Yes, IAW Title 10, U.S. Code, the maximum period a soldier could have been legally held in stop loss is 24 months. There are clearly defined limits established for each type of mobilization order that soldiers and units are required to follow to minimize time spent in a stop loss condition.

Q7. How will Reserve Component members be paid?

A7. By law, Reserve Component members retained under Stop Loss authority will receive Retroactive SLSP only while serving on **active duty**. As such, reserve component members may have periods before mobilization and after demobilization where Retroactive SLSP cannot be paid.

Q8. Is Retroactive SLSP subject to tax exclusion?

A8. Yes, Retroactive SLSP earned while serving in a designated Combat Zone Tax Relief (CZTR) are reviewed by DFAS for tax exclusion.

Q9. How long do service members have to apply for Retroactive SLSP?

A9. The last day for submission has been extended through April 8, 2011. At which time a final date for this program will be set.

Q10. When will service members begin to receive payments?

A10. The Program Management Office (PMO) will activate its' web enabled registration system on 21 October 2009. The goal of the Army G-1 is to have all web based claims paid within **90 days** of the completed and validated claim submissions.

Q11. What documents will I need to file a claim under the Retroactive SLSP program?

A11. The forms required for submission are listed on the Web site. On line registration began on 21 October 2009.

Q12. What if I do not have any documents that specifically notified me of being affected by the Stop Loss?

A12. The Army cannot honor a claim that does not have evidentiary documentation of stop loss.

Q13. What steps can I take to recreate documents or replace missing information?

A13. Current and former Service members, with a CAC or an Army Knowledge Online (AKO) account, will be able to access their official files through the Human Resource Command's on line services at: www.hrc.army.mil select "view records". You must have a CAC or AKO account to access this site.

Former Service members without AKO access can obtain records at:

<http://www.archives.gov/st-louis/military-personnel>

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Q14. Can an affidavit or endorsement from someone knowledgeable from my chain of command be submitted in lieu of an official denial of a REFRAD request or rescinded retirement orders?

A14. No claims will be approved unless the claim period can be documented in official records.

Q15. If my claim is denied can I appeal the finding?

A15. Yes, There are two options available: one is directly to the Claims office and you can request review of a claim in general or you can request a review of a claim associated with a bonus.

1(A). For claims reconsideration – please use the reconsideration form available on the web site and return it with supporting documents and comments to:

stoplosspayreconsideration@conus.army.mil.

1(B). For reconsideration of claims related to a **bonus** please use the reconsideration form available on the web site and return it with supporting documents and comments to:

stoplosspaybonus@conus.army.mil.

2. The second appeal available is by submitting an application to the Army Board for Correction of Military Records (ABCMR). Soldiers and former Soldiers may receive instructions and application forms at: [HTTP://arba.army.pentagon.mil/abcmr-overview.cfm](http://arba.army.pentagon.mil/abcmr-overview.cfm)

Q16. Can family members of a wounded soldier apply for payment in the soldier's name?

A16. Yes, Service members that have died on active duty will be notified and assisted under a special program administered by the U.S. Army Casualty Management Office.

Part of the G-1 strategic communications effort will be directed at these survivors who may need additional assistance in filing their claims. The primary conduit for these activities will be Veteran Outreach Organizations (VCOs). In certain cases families will be contacted directly.

Q17. Where should Army Soldiers, Veterans and survivors go for more information?

A17. <https://www.stoplosspay.army.mil>. Or toll free at (877)-736-5554

Q18. Are Service members serving in an "Indefinite" status eligible for SLSP?

A18. No, by its' very nature the "Indefinite" status means the Service member is under an ongoing contract. A Service member serving in an "Indefinite" status that has evidentiary proof that they requested and were denied releases from Service is eligible for SLSP.

Q19. Do I count my mobilization and de-mobilization time as stop loss time?

A19. No, at present SLSP does not include Mobilization or De-mobilization time. SLSP only covers periods of Active Duty Service.

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Q20. Can I revisit my claim to update information or check the status of my file?

A20. Yes, all successfully submitted claims will receive “revisit” instructions and password. The claims application software will allow for a secure and password protected revisit to your file. You will also be able to see when changes are made to the status of your claim. In general this will include an initial status and general status updates as claims move through the certification process. The final notice will be when the claim has been released to DFAS for disbursement.

Q21. How are claims processed once received?

A21. Claims are processed using a first-in first-out rule. Many claims are approved within days through an automated screening process. This only applies to claims where the period claimed and the Army record is in agreement. Due to inconsistent record keeping over the years many valid claims will not be able to be cleared in this manner. Claims from incapacitated soldiers or other special cases are handled first. Claims that are filed in “hard copy” take more steps to process and will need to be electronically entered into the e-file system by a case manager and therefore require added processing time. This is also true for e-mail submissions. The fastest and easiest way to file your claim is through the e-file web site.

Q22. What is the best way to ensure a positive finding on my claim?

A22. Build a solid time line for your stop loss period. DD214s are reasonably accurate when listing stop loss time for “convenience of the government” but you must take into account the most recent contract and simply dividing by 30 days often fails to give the correct number of months. Reserve component soldier should not include mobilization periods in their claims.

Q23. Are soldiers help beyond their Mandatory Retirement Date (MRD) eligible for RSLSP?

A23. Yes, soldiers who were help beyond their MRD should apply for RSLSP.

Q24. Am I still eligible if I have received an incentive bonus during the period covered by this program?

A24. Recent legislation makes many bonus recipients **ineligible** for RSLSP. The following are the rules for bonus recipients: A soldier is **ineligible** if the bonus was received after the stop loss period that is being claimed unless: there was a break in service, the bonus was received while affiliated with different service Component than the stop loss period, or if there was an intervening non-bonus enlistment prior to the bonus period.

Soldiers whose stop loss period is after their incentive bonus contract period remain **eligible**.